

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA

APPROVED BY D- BLPASCOE

AF-DBOLEN

S/S- MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: NIGER AMBASSADOR WRIGHT'S CALL ON DEPUTY
SECRETARY

1. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR ANDRE WRIGHT MADE HIS INITIAL
CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON SEPTEMBER 2. CALL HAD
BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE WRIGHT HAS BEEN IN NEW YORK SINCE
HIS ARRIVAL AUGUST 14 AS HEAD OF THE NIGERIAN LOS
DELEGATION.

2. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY BEGAN BY NOTING THE PROBLEMS OF
THE SAHEL AND DRAWING ATTENTION TO US PARTICIPATION IN THE
CLUB DES AMIS.

3. WRIGHT THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS. HE WAS VERY
PLEASED TO BE BACK IN WASHINGTON. THE PRESIDENT HAD
INSTRUCTED HIM TO EXPRESS NIGER'S GRATITUDE FOR THE
ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES, BOTH DIRECTLY
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FROM USAID AND INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE ENTENTE. REGARDING

BILATERAL AID HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR THANKS FOR 21000 MT OF GRAIN THE U.S. HAS PROVIDED. REGARDING MULTILATERAL AID HE SINGLED OUT ENTENTE ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESS AS BEING PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL. HE NOTED THAT NIGER 'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS BASED ON RESPECT

FOR THE UN CHARTER, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES. HE EXPRESSED NIGER'S RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HE TERMED THE DEFENDER OF THE WEAK AND UPHOLDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, WRIGHT SAID, "I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST THAT THE US ASSIST NIGER, A LANDLOCKED STATE, IN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TO SECURE ACCESS TO THE SEA."

5. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WERE THOROUGHLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE LANDLOCKED, SUPPORTED THEIR RIGHT TO ACCESS TO THE SEA, AND WISHED TO SEE THEM BENEFIT FROM THE RESOURCES FROM THE SEA.

6. WRIGHT THEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND FOR THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS REGARDING SAHEL DEVELOPMENT. FINALLY, HE REPLIED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S QUESTION REGARDING RAINFALL, BY SAYING THE DROUGHT APPEARED TO BE ENDED, THE RAINS WERE GOOD, AND NIGER LOOKED FORWARD TO A GOOD HARVEST.

ROBINSON

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